

Remarks

The present Amendment is made in response to the final Office Action dated August 22, 2007, and identified as Paper No. 20060730. Claims 1-2, 4-18, 20-48 are pending in the application.

In the Action, the Examiner allowed claims 34-48, indicated claims 3-15, 19, and 21-33 are allowable subject to complying with certain informalities, and rejected claims 1, 2, 16-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,749,364 to Silwa, Jr. (“*Silwa*”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,546,272 to Mackinnon et al. (“*Mackinnon*”).

Applicant has either amended the rejected claims to incorporate the relevant limitations from the allowed claims, or cancelled the rejected claims without prejudice to Applicant’s right to file a continuing application directed to the cancelled subject matter. In other instances, Applicant has rewritten the objected to claims to place them into proper independent format or made changes in the dependency to reflect the claim amendments. Applicant believes that all of the pending claims have been amended to include allowed subject matter as indicated in the pending Office Action, or to place them into acceptable form for issuance.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Examiner’s reconsideration and allowance of the present application is believed to be in order. If the Examiner believes a phone conference with Applicant’s attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, please contact the undersigned at (315) 218-8515.

Respectfully Submitted,

By:

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Reply to Non-Final Office Action dated January 10, 2008
Serial No. 10/681,722
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